

HOLIDAY EDITION

THE BELL RINGER

Montgomery Bell Academy

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MBA Eager for Revenge against Father Ryan

By Andrew Gibbs
Sports Editor

Ohio State and Michigan. North Carolina and Duke. MBA and Father Ryan. Nothing is more exciting than a classic, traditional rivalry game. Last Friday night, the Big Red basketball team traveled to Father Ryan for a battle on the court. With a colorful atmosphere surrounding the court, the game was truly a cultural experience. We, the Big Red faithful, love to hate Father Ryan.

The intensity on the court was the same from the opening tip to the final buzzer. Every loose ball resulted in bodies upon bodies diving and scrambling to retain possession. Outstretched arms pushed higher to claim every rebound. Passionate hands dominated the paint refusing to allow easy baskets. Quick feet gambled for steals and big plays. Confident hearts drove the lane time and time again. Selfless souls allowed their

bodies to be beaten over and over as they glided to the basket. The bruises of Saturday never crossed the minds of the Friday night warriors.

Father Ryan led early through the defensive struggle. The Big Red

struggled to find offensive power and was forced to survive through defense and hustle. They dominated the paint on both ends of the court and out-hustled the Irish to keep it close. While Father Ryan shied away from the true battles on

the outside, they did find success from beyond the arc. Ryan's 11 three-pointers proved to be their most valuable asset.

Despite trailing 21-15 at the half, MBA would not go away. The Big Red got hot in the 3rd quarter and outscored the Irish. Seniors Adam Baker and Harlan Dodson combined to contribute 25 points leading the way.

Trailing only by 4, MBA played with confidence in the fourth quarter. Our tenacious defense held the Irish to 3 points in the final period of regulation. In fact, a defensive play by Senior Forward Charlie Plageman kept MBA alive. Plageman, like a defensive back, intercepted a Ryan pass and drove the length of the court to finish the lay-up and send the game to overtime. The stage was set. This rivalry match would be an instant classic.



MBA taking on Brentwood Academy last month

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MBA Brings *The Misanthrope* to the Stage

By Jonathon Lundy
Staff Writer

"An excellent play, extremely well done!!!" Thus exclaimed so many as they left the show *The Misanthrope*. MBA's highly-honored theater department produced Moliere's *The Misanthrope* on Thursday through Sunday, November 30th through December 3rd.

Moliere, a French dramatist who lived from 1622 until 1673, wrote satires

about the human condition, the foibles of man, and society's hypocrisies. In the first century A.D., as one learns from Mr. Gaither's aphorisms, Juvenal wrote, "It is difficult not to write satire." Moliere felt the same way as he surveyed his society and man's quirky nature. *The Misanthrope* looks into the troubles a man can bring upon himself by being so honest that even a bit of dishonest, though kind,

flattery is beyond him. Further, he believes that all others tell the truth too seldom to be trusted. Such a man will find himself alienated from his fellow man.

The direction and the acting were remarkable. Moliere's plays contain far more dialogue than action and require attentiveness to capture the often subtle lines. This writer is still trying to figure out how in the world Everitte Barbee learned all those lines. So much dialogue!!! Everitte plays Alceste, the lead character and the fellow who objects vigorously to hypocrites, and Alceste is on stage almost throughout the play, for about an hour and forty minutes. Everitte handled all that dialogue marvelously, even remembering to move about the stage to interact with the other actors while incessantly uttering his lines. When asked how he memorized so many lines, Everitte reports, "955 lines is a big chunk to memorize, but, honestly, I have no secret. I just say the lines over and over in rehearsal and to myself." Everitte is always fun to watch on stage, and we will miss him after he graduates this spring.

The show's big surprise, and possibly the new comic genius who will grace MBA's stage for the next three years, was Lewis Armistead. Playing a fop and a poseur who flatters Celimene, the female lead, his poses brought laughs from everyone in the audience. He

managed just the precise element of vanity and flamboyant attitude without being outright gay. It was close, though. Lewis reports that while Mr. Morrison gave him general ideas on how the role should be done, he himself put together the poses we saw. One must wonder, watching Lewis' Clitandre, why it took another entire century before Madame Defarge and her guillotine-loving compatriots started separating the heads of the marquises from their patrician bodies. Now, I don't know if he meant to have make-up on his teeth or if that merely happens to actors who wear lipstick, but the red teeth served to add just the proper counter to his "perfect" look—not unlike the coolest guy on campus tripping while showing how smooth he is.

Lewis and Garrett Anglin, his fellow fop, were downright riots and were definitely the hit of the show. They make quite a comic duo, and it will be fun to see them together again. Everitte admits that Lewis stole the show. Everitte says of Lewis, "I was amazed at what he was able to make from his part, especially being that this was his first show on the high school stage. I think he was the most hilarious member of the cast, and I expect that we will only see great things from him in theater in the future." And Lewis

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The cast of *The Misanthrope* takes the stage



THE BELL RINGER

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Early Decision Results Arrive at Last

By Alec McGuffey
Editor-in-Chief

Early Decision strikes again. As you read this editorial, high school seniors around the nation are being contacted by their dream colleges. Some of these students will have much to be thankful for this holiday season; others will be spending the vacation lamenting in their bedrooms, overindulging on gingerbread and candy canes. Each year, beginning on December 1st and typically culminating today, the 15th, colleges inform thousands upon thousands of hopeful Early Decision and Early Action applicants whether they have been accepted, rejected, or simply deferred. Deferred students are placed into the regular applicant pool to be reevaluated in the spring. Indeed, several MBA students have already been accepted into schools such as the University of Virginia, Northwestern University, and The College of William and Mary through Early Decision programs.

Congratulations if you fall within this category. In fact, 78 members (67%) of this year's Senior class have applied to a college under either an Early Action or Early Decision program as opposed to 53% of last year's



graduating class (Early Action is typically nonbinding whereas Early Decision applicants are legally bound to attend the college if accepted). To the class of 2008: if you know that you want to attend a specific university, apply Early Action or Early Decision. Doing so usually leads to a statistically increased chance of being admitted. Some schools, such as Georgetown, have the same acceptance rate for both Early Action and Regular Decision applicants (21% in Georgetown's case). Applying Early Action to others, like Harvard, practically doubles one's chances of being admitted.

There has been much debate recently about certain unfair aspects inherent in the college admissions process. Indeed, it is difficult to read the newspaper or watch the news this time of year without finding an argument for or against the preferential treatment given to legacy students, certain ethnicities, athletes, or children of the rich and famous. One can only hope that this partiality is much more the exception than the rule. The vast majority of students admitted to prestigious universities without a doubt deserve to be there.

Good luck to anyone hearing back from colleges today. We've worked hard these past six years. If you get into the

college of your dreams, congratulations. If not, just remember that no matter where you go to school, you will undoubtedly get a great education and go on to live a successful life. Good luck, guys.

MBA vs. Ryan

Continued from page 1

After Ryan hit an early 3 in OT, Baker responded by drilling a mid-range jumper. Baker's answer was an example of MBA's refusal to be flustered and quit. Another long 3 by Ryan put MBA down by 4 with only a minute to play. Someone had to make a play. Plagemen knocked the lead back to two with a great rebound and put back. On the ensuing throw in, Plageman and Junior William Davis force a jump ball that would give MBA the ball back with 30 seconds to play.

The Big Red waited patiently, allowing the clock to run down before striking. With 10 seconds left, we made our move and began to strike. Charlie Byrge found himself open off a cut and without hesitation turned and launched a 3. Nothing but net. The Big Red had climbed back and now led with a few seconds to go.

However, the luck of the Irish prevailed. A last-second three from the corner found the bottom of the net and decided the game.

We lost, but WOW!! What a game!!!

After fighting all night, the Big Red fell short. Being completely exhausted from the battle only one thought was clear in the minds of the players in red...REVENGE!

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The Misanthrope

Continued from page 1

himself avers, "I really liked the comedy role." When asked how it was to work in his first high school play, Lewis says, "I felt challenged, but things were not too advanced. The rest of the cast was great, very helpful, and I had fun getting to know them and becoming friends with them all."

Elise Hudson played the role of Celimene, beloved of Alceste, and she portrayed this character with just the right amount of patrician elegance, *sniff*. She may have been the best of the actors on the stage Saturday night, for she could deliver her lines with accurate pacing without forgetting to portray the personality of the character. She was tall and elegant and portrayed the class of Celimene's class. Alas, Celimene loves Parisian society too much to forsake it for love, so her love for Alceste is forsaken. Though she weeps in the end, it is Alceste who must leave, driven by his own intolerance of the games people must play to get by in society. Celimene's weeping and the rain projected on the screen brought to the audience just how cold and empty we can cause ourselves to be.

Playing Alceste's friend and advisor, Philinte, was Bennett Davidson. Bennett did a fine job with the role, being earnest and yet exasperated at the same time, as he tries to convince Alceste to accept the exigencies of social hypocrisy and to be patient with the weaknesses of

others. Our appreciation for Bennett's effort is amplified, for he came into the show late, after the original cast member had to leave the show.

We really enjoyed that Mr. Morrison, the show's immensely and



Take a...salute?

deeply talented director, chose to present the show in period costume. Even though the coats and wigs and make-up had to have been very uncomfortable, the production profited from the effort. This reviewer finds it truly artificial and, yes, presumptuous when a director sets in modern times with modern dress a play which originally was set in the sixteenth or seventeenth century. The director then is telling his audience that this play is not so much about, say, Moliere, as it is about the director and his own vision. Fortunately, Mr. Morrison does not find it necessary to stroke his own ego at the expense of the original writer. Inclusion of

Harrison Brown's harpsichord added to the 17th-century feel of the play.

The lead actor, Everitte Barbee, acknowledges Mr. Morrison's skills as an actor's director when he states, "He is so much fun to work with and by far the

easiest director that I have worked with so far."

This writer truly appreciated one aspect of this production: we could understand every word of the dialogue. Evidently both Mr. Morrison and all the actors made a real effort to

ensure that all the words were enunciated and the lines delivered at an un rushed pace. Too often high school actors hurry their dialogue or tend to mumble, rendering the material wasted. Not for this show, though, was this the case.

One weakness this reviewer found with the play on Saturday night involved a contradiction between Madame O'Connell's excellent notes and the play itself. Madame O'Connell writes that Alceste, in spite of his intolerance for human failings and his prickly personality, is quite a likable fellow. This likability was not at all apparent. The lines were

there for him, but as strong as Everitte was in other respects, he did not make his character especially likeable. In fact, too often during the play I thought that the actors were worrying more about getting their lines right than about filling out their characters. But, don't think for a minute that we are complaining, for the play was wonderfully put together, and the dialogue and the actors entertained us and everyone else thoroughly. As Everitte tells us, "I will miss this play very much."

The size of the audience varied from night to night, with about forty to ninety people watching each show. The Paschall Theater is perfect for these smaller shows, and the intimacy with the show and the actors reminds one of the small playhouses around town. The stage, the seating, and the accommodations here are just nicely suitable for the smaller shows.

In conclusion, the character Alceste is definitely a candidate for *Lundy Listens* (a column for the psychologically subnormal, found elsewhere in this newspaper). The play ends with no change in his nature, although he was given several lessons about the negative consequences of holding his fellow man to such a high standard and keeping himself to an absurdly strict code, even forbidding blandishment. Those like Alceste, who seem always to harbor suspicions about the motives of others, will never find a satisfactory relationship. It is really quite amazing how human nature has been constant over the years and how we can connect with Moliere's characters even now, despite a completely different culture and a time difference of three and one-half centuries.

Freshman Wrestling

By Neil Ryan
Staff Writer

The freshman wrestling team is having a pretty good season thus far, and they are making a good transition from the 8th-grade league to the high school style of wrestling. The difference in the way practice works this year really has been a challenge, especially for the younger wrestlers. This year, the wrestlers practice with the varsity team and have a much more grueling practice schedule, which, among other conditioning tricks, involves several "red flag days." On these "red flag days," wrestlers use red bags



filled with sand to do several very demanding drills. Some of these drills include doing curls with the bags, doing

sit-ups and push-ups with the bags as extra weight, penetration steps with the bags, and tossing the bags to each other. Chris Adkins, with sweat in his eyes, reports that the practices are "a lot harder and more intense."

Despite the toughness of this workout schedule, the freshmen have persevered so far, going 2-2 in their matches. Some standout wrestlers this season have been Charles Herron, Jeff Nutkis, Ben Sutter, and Chris Adkins.

In addition, Daniel Todd, who cruelly and cryptically refused an interview with this reporter, is wrestling on the varsity level and performing very well. Finally, the dark horse, Jonathan Golab

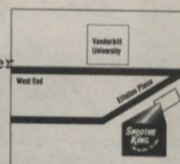
(!!!!), has come out of nowhere to have a good season so far, pinning one of his opponents in mere seconds. Jonathan and the wrestlers still have a long road to travel before their season ends, but

there is no doubt in this reporter's mind that they will finish with a winning record.

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Dr. Lundy Offers Advice for the Holidays

A Column for Those to Whom Little is Given and from Whom Much Is Taken

By Dr. Jonathon Lundy
Staff Writer and Friend of
those who have no friends

Dear Dr. Lundy,

I always become really depressed around this time of year. Everyone around me is getting ready to celebrate the end-of-the-year holidays: lights are strung, wreaths are hung, trees are axed, and candles drip wax. Families come together to celebrate this and that.



I'm surrounded by joy and happiness, but I myself have none of it. What in the world is there for me to be thankful for and happy about?

- Depressed in December

Dear December,

You may not realize it, but you truly do have much to be thankful for this season. Many people do gather with their friends and families at this time of year, but even if your friends didn't invite you to this year's awesome Christmas bash (or perhaps they told you that your invitation simply got "lost in the mail") or your grandmother was the one that got run over by a reindeer in that silly song, there are still many things out there for you to be thankful for. Here are a few to consider:

- Be thankful that, if you've never seen classic holiday movies such as *Merry Christmas*, *Charlie Brown* or *It's a Wonderful Life*, these timeless films will be shown on broadcast television approximately thirteen times this month, and on cable about forty-two times more. And they'll be shown fifty-five times next year too, and the year after that, and the year after that, and so on and so forth until the last television set in the world decides to jump off a cliff rather than show *Frosty the Snowman* one more time.

- If you hate the cooler weather of this time of year, be thankful for the bright lights and yard decorations that seem to make you so sad: all those electric lights place a significant strain

- Be thankful that we live in Tennessee, a place where Waffle House is so ubiquitous. They're open on Christmas Day, and every day as a matter of fact, so you'll have somewhere to share your misery with everyone else who is



Dr. Lundy is the only one who understands me

on the electric grid, and Al Gore has assured me that the greenhouse gases caused by the production of the extra energy needed will ensure that this time of year will become a tad bit warmer each and every year. And how could the inventor of the Internet ever be wrong?

as lonely and cold as you are. And the food's pretty darn good, too; it will probably taste better than that Honeybaked Ham your family has had for the last eighty-four years in a row.

There's a lot more to the holidays than that, of course. But that should give you a start to thinking about what you have to be thankful for. So have a good holiday season, everyone, and be sure not to shoot your eye out!

Dr. L.

Anatomy of a Stocking

By Travis Brannon
Staff Writer

We all have "That Grandmother." Not the one that squeezes your cheeks or kisses your forehead. Not the one that bakes cookies. Not the one that lives over the hills and through the woods. I'm talking about the one that has a red sedan

stocking, a novelty item put into good use.

Okay, so none of you has a grandmother like this? Well, I consider myself lucky, because in that comically massive, moth-ball-stinking stocking lie the greatest gifts of the holiday season. I will list them now. Keep in mind, this is not a joke:



A finger watch adorned with bobble-head Chihuahuas and covered in USA bumper-stickers, the one that gives you a jumbo-pack of long-expired Juicy Fruit after every single athletic or school event, the one that shops at two places: Big Lots and the Flea Market—Big Lots for commercial goods and the Flea Market for groceries—and, yes, even the one that comes to your house on Christmas morning with a ridiculously large felt

- 10) M&M's in a mysterious looking, unwrapped Easter egg. Mind you, this is Christmas.
- 9) Suprema™ Radio-Action FM Autocan Radio w. Built-in Penlight (This gift I receive every year without failure.)
- 8) SpeedStick 24/7 Non-Stop Protection Icy Surge Deodorant
- 7) *Who Wants to Be a Millionaire: The Book*- "You've seen the show, now read the book!"
- 6) Ronald Reagan Ltd. Edition Playing Cards
- 5) Casio™ Finger Watch- "The watch worn on your index finger."
- 4) *Ann Landers Talks to Teenagers About Sex* by Ann Landers
- 3) Glow-in-the-Dark Hat and Mittens: Inscribed with the phrase, "Warning: Hard Drive Overload."
- 2) Jumper Cables
- 1) *Top Dog* starring Chuck Norris

And, no, there is no re-gifting...but I do love my grandmother.

Zia

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Antiques Flowers

For Varsity Basketball, Teamwork Builds Success

By Jeff Eberle
Sports Editor

Anybody been to Currey Gymnasium lately? You won't regret making the decision of supporting your 2006-2007 Montgomery Bell Academy varsity basketball team. This year's squad is a breath of fresh air. Instead of playing selfish, with the attitude of "There's no 'I' in team - well there's no 'we' either!", teamwork has been the goal of this group from the very beginning.

I had a chance to talk to junior guard William Davis about some of the issues facing this year's team. He told me very candidly, "The strength of this team is its spirit of teamwork. The key element for each player is having the unselfishness to move the ball around until the open man can get a good look at the goal." He admitted that the team has its weaknesses as well, including "the ability to finish the game strong when we have a commanding lead going into the 4th quarter." In his opinion, however, the keys to MBA's success so far have been shooting the ball well on a consistent basis and implementing the principles Coach Kevin Anglin preached during the whole pre-season period. William concluded, "The two big differences

between this year's team and last year's are the improved talent of this year's team and its commitment to teamwork."

Teamwork can carry the Big Red to a state title. In its victory over Cheatham County, ten players scored with at least one point, a tribute to the

evident throughout that game was the way the team distributed the basketball. With nine seniors on the team, not even the color commentators for Big Red basketball, Zach Richardson and Scott Schwartz, know who will lead the Big Red in scoring each night. As senior power forward, Adam Baker, puts it, "If someone has an off night, others can step up and pick up the slack."

Teamwork, trust, and tough play are three huge characteristics for any



Adam Baker takes the shot

unselfishness of all the players. MBA looked flawless against Ezell-Harding, exhibiting its talent and team spirit with a 74-40 trouncing of the Eagles. Clearly

championship team. The possibilities for this year's squad could be endless if MBA's basketball team continues to put all three together.

through with a focused eye on the pocket all take skill.

Like it or not, bowling (officially termed "American Tenpins") is the fastest growing varsity sport in the nation. According to the National Federation of State High School Associations, there are 40,000 high school varsity bowlers nationwide. That's not many compared to the 1,000,000 football players and the 450,000 female basketball players, but consider it a select group of athletes!

High school bowling is hot and is quickly becoming a cool sport. Even USN and Ensworth have teams. In what other sport can you listen to music blaring overhead (namely Lynyrd Skynyrd's "Free Bird," which we have heard many times this year), have fries and cokes as part of your training diet, breathe in fresh whiffs of second-hand smoke, and have girls as teammates? The popularity of the cult movie classic *The Big Lebowski* has helped to raise bowling's image to a godlike level. You can't help but worship the Dude. If you don't know what I'm talking about, rent the movie. You will come away from it with a newfound respect for the game.

There is a scene in the 1970 film *Five Easy Pieces* in which Robert Dupea (Jack Nicholson) and Rayette Dipesto (Karen Black) go bowling with two friends. Robert chucks the bowling ball right down the lane without any type of form and gets very lucky most of the time. Rayette is simply a terrible bowler and gets frustrated with the game several times. This is a way not to bowl; you need to have some kind of form and determination when bowling. The Steve Buscemi character, Donnie, in *The Big Lebowski* has an excellent bowling form, despite Walter constantly telling him to shut up. You should follow Donnie's technique when you go bowling.

I recently asked Rand Woodson, the bowling kingpin and god of the team, some questions about himself and about bowling in general:

Kevin: If bowling really is a mind game, what goes through your mind when you are getting ready to roll?

Rand: Well bowling is a mind game in the sense that you cannot allow prior shots thrown to get into your mind. You never

Bowling: Not Just Chili-Cheese Fries

By Kevin Thomas
Entertainment Editor

For those of you who think that bowling is a joke sport, keep reading this article. Bowling is

a serious mind game. It takes concentration, discipline, and consistent delivery, and it is a sport for which MBA students are perfectly trained. It takes some serious coordination and athletic ability: you must use more than 130 muscles to bowl. Bending over the ball return to air out a hand, hoisting a ten-to-sixteen pound ball to your chest, taking a stance and a four-step approach, and finally executing a backswing and a follow-



Jesus Prepares

want to think about shots that you have thrown beforehand even if you have thrown a perfect ball before the shot you

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Continued on page ten

The Belle Meade Police Department

The Chief Speaks. The Officers Act.

By Scott Schwartz and Jay Milam
Features and News Editors

We have all experienced or heard of incidents with the Belle Meade police that lead us to believe that they are generally unreasonable and irrational. I have asked some members of the MBA student body and faculty to send me stories of some of their interesting encounters with these enforcers of the law, and I have compiled the best of these stories in this article.

But let's not make this issue too one-sided.

To hear the point-of-view of the Chief himself, we sent our very own Jay Milam to interview the Belle Meade police chief. The Chief's words below come from Jay's interview. The Chief spoke sincerely and frankly. As we will see, though, his officers' actions do not always mirror the Chief's words. I am not going to try to sway you either way regarding the efficacy of these officers, so I will just let the facts speak for themselves.

Police Chief: "98% of the time, we can't tell the age, color, or sex of the individual until we walk up to the car."

Sam Little's observation: "About a year ago, I was driving down Belle Meade Blvd, just as you're about to come upon St. George's Church. There was an old, rusted Chevrolet Impala with five African-American guys in it, all with their hands on their heads. There were three Belle Meade police cars lined up behind the rusted automobile as if they had kidnapped somebody's children."

—I guess this was that 2% when they can't tell.

Police Chief: "You are required to wear safety equipment [when running on the Boulevard.]"

Gentry Smith's experience: "Sophomore year, the cross country team was running on the Boulevard, and this large female "cop" stops about half of our team and begins to tell us that it is completely illegal for us to be running side by side on the boulevard. She said that we were being completely disrespectful."

They were threatened with an \$85 fine.

—The danger of running side by side is tremendous. I just hope they were wearing their required safety gear.

Police Chief: "Being in law enforcement... it's changing flat tires and trying to help people find solutions to problems that often when they don't know who else to call, they'll call the police."

From Will Earthman: I was driving on Jackson Blvd, one night and some

kid had put a big tree branch in the road. A Belle Meade police woman was parked right beside it on the side of the road and was out of her car. So I stopped my car and rolled down my window, and she told me that she was waiting for backup so that she could search the tree branch for fingerprints.

—Thanks, Belle Meade police, for "trying to help people find solutions to problems."

Police Chief: "Community support and the community feeling like they have a police department that's approachable are important to me."

Mike Anderson writes: "One time my mom and I were driving through Belle Meade, and we're at a stop sign. All of a sudden, this guy blows through his stop sign without stopping and my mom honks her horn. A policeman driving by does a U-turn and follows my mom all the way to the edge of his jurisdiction and then pulls her over. He then asks her why she honked, and she explains what happened. He tells her to control her temper."

—That'll make you seem approachable.

Police Chief: "We try to work with the other police departments as well as we can...because if law enforcement agencies work together, we can get a lot done, and the citizens end up winning."

Dr. Carro begs to differ: "A little over 2 years ago my wife was taking one of our daughters to Green Hills on a Sunday afternoon. She had our other two daughters with her in the car as well. The girls were 11, 8, and 3 at the time. I stayed home to work in the yard."

As they were traveling on Jackson Blvd, a policeman clocked her doing 42 mph on a 30 mph zone. She (the cop) pulled my wife over and wrote her a ticket for speeding. Standard stuff. My wife asked the cop to give her a warning rather than write her a ticket, but to no avail. This all happened about 100 yards away from the spot where Glenn Eden Ts into Jackson Blvd. My wife got the ticket, rolled up her window, and drove off. As she had pulled over off the road, her right two tires were on soft wet grass. As she accelerated to drive off, the tires on grass spun a

bit, and instinctively she must have stepped on the accelerator more as the car was not moving. Eventually the right front tire met the pavement, resulting in a momentary screeching of the tire. She sped up normally afterwards, but in a couple of

seconds she had to slow down again to turn left onto Glen Eden road. All of the above is recorded on a video taken from the police car.

The policeman felt that my wife drove off recklessly because ruts were made on the grass and because of the screeching tire sound. So she

immediately pulled my wife over again and proceeded to arrest her for reckless driving. The policeman called Metro police for backup, and in no time there was a circus, with three patrol cars flashing blue lights and my wife in the car with three, by now

very scared, children. My wife was handcuffed and put in the back of the Belle Meade police car while my screaming and crying children were left in my wife's car with the engine running and the driver-side door wide open. After about an hour of paperwork, radioing, and trying to get me to come get my kids so that they could take my wife downtown, they had to release my wife. She had to go later to the Metro police precinct to get photographed, fingerprinted, etc. and given a court date. We had to hire a defense attorney, but luckily the prosecutor dropped the case minutes before the court appearance was to take place."

—"The citizens end up winning." Really?

These are just some of the stories I have received, but I think they clearly illustrate that the self-described open-mindedness, rationality, approachability of these fine officers is, at best, inconsistent. My advice: re-route.

In the next issue, *The Bell Ringer* will feature an article highlighting positive experiences students have had with the Belle Meade Police.

Ninth Grade News

By Seth-Akers Campbell
Staff Writer

In three games, the talented, MBA 9th-Grade basketball team has gone 3-0, achieving victories over Brentwood, Page, and Centennial High Schools all by a margin of at least sixteen points. The team started off the 66-34 win against Centennial by going up 21-0 in the 1st quarter in a game where all members of the team scored!

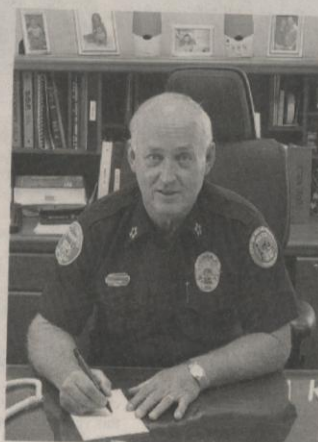
Similarly, 9th-grade wrestling has achieved early success by defeating Independence 42-3 and Ravenwood 25-24. The team did drop a tough away match against Dickson County High School 28-18, however.

Congratulations to Hershel Mehta and Adrian Carey who won the Ohio Valley debate tournament in Lexington, Kentucky. The stellar novice debaters are dominating tournaments up and down the middle of the country in Chicago, Alabama, and Kentucky, proving that they will be the bright future of MBA debate.

Freshmen have also been greatly contributing to the swim team, which won its first meet of the season with the help of solid performances by many freshmen against a very good opponent in Ravenwood High School. Seth Akers-Campbell, Jack Murphee, Rob Higham, Corbin Williams, Lee Grubbs, and Shep Patterson are a few of those fine young swimmers. Coach Grey Carter says about his rising stars, "this year's freshman class may represent the strongest group of swimmers in one class in MBA's history. I hope to see their accomplishments eclipse and pay honor to their predecessors and the school."

Freshmen: Remember to Recycle! - If we actually are going to save the environment this year and not fall into the disastrous effects of global warming, etc., keep emptying those bins!

The Class of 2010 Peanut Butter Drive was a success! Led by freshman class vice-president Matt Bellet, all the volunteers collected 454 pounds (almost a quarter of a ton) of peanut butter. This was delivered to Second Harvest Food Bank on Friday, December 8th. The freshmen did not deliver any jelly to complement the peanut butter.



Chief of Police Jimmy Binkley



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The Importance of Diversity at MBA

By Rasha' Harvey
Staff Writer

Montgomery Bell Academy is the Southern prep school known for its excellence in academics, athletics, and the arts. But there is one key element that can improve our achievements in these areas: DIVERSITY. Has anyone taken a look at the composition of the MBA community? Is it reflective of America? The obvious answer is "No." In fact, diversity is one of the most systemic issues our whole society faces. Diversity is an issue currently being mentioned and studied in every industry from education to medicine.

At the present time, the minority population at MBA is at a paltry seven percent. However, I must admit MBA has progressed since graduating its first African-American student in 1987. MBA has come to recognize that more diversity can help strengthen the academic, athletic, and social pillars of our school community.

On the academic front, having a more heterogeneous student body would improve our classroom experience. For example, an all-white classroom cannot adequately analyze *Huckleberry Finn* without a minority voice in class - just ask Mr. Moxley. Mr. Morrison and Mr. Kelly have certainly opened the eyes of the MBA gentleman by educating us on their respective cultures.

Similarly, diversity allows for us to become more knowledgeable on issues

disproportionately affecting minorities such as crime and HIV/AIDS. In return our increased knowledge can help us empathize more deeply with the people we serve in activities like Soup Kitchen and Preston Taylor Homes.

On the athletic field, we have seen how the diversity of our football team has produced success. Our leading tacklers for the Big Red in the past two years are Michael Swett and Alfonza Knight, both representing disadvantaged minority groups. Furthermore, a diverse team population heightens athletes' perspectives on different team members. Who wouldn't mind having E.J. creating smiles with his jokes and stories?

Perhaps, the most important effect diversity will have on the MBA community is its contribution to our social environment. It's a proven fact that minorities will feel more welcomed into a community if a sizable number of their peers are already entrenched into it. Clubs and other student organizations can benefit because the diversity of its members can have an immediate impact on the club's activities. My intention in starting the African-American Studies Club was to increase our social conscience. Yet, my club is only the first step towards actively promoting diversity. Hopefully other students will be inspired to seek opportunities to start clubs or activities with a focus on diversity and international studies. In order for MBA to progress in the 21st century, it must embrace diversity.

Mr. Spiegl Wins Coveted Award

By Will Henry
Staff Writer

Mr. Spiegl, an eighth-grade Earth Science teacher, was recently honored to receive the Conservation Educator Award.

On November 16th, 2006, the Davidson County Soil Conservation District held its 60th Anniversary Celebration. The luncheon was located at the Ellington Agriculture Center and began at 11:30 A.M. Mr. Spiegl was invited to this celebration but was not told about the award which he was to receive. As much as he desired to attend the luncheon, Mr. Spiegl decided it would be best not to miss teaching his students and not to have to find a substitute. He was then later informed that he had won the Conservation Education Award for his involvement in the Envirothon. In reference to this award, Mr. Spiegl modestly assures us, "This award is more for my Envirothon students rather than me. All I do is drive the bus."

Known by many of his previous students, Mr. Spiegl is a huge Colts fan, for

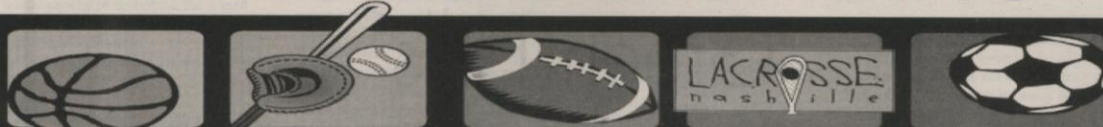
he was born and raised in Indianapolis, Indiana. He attended Cathedral High School and later went on to study at Purdue University. There, he double-majored in Anthropology and Biology. From Purdue, he continued to Columbia University in New York City to receive his graduate degree in the teaching of Math and Science.

He feels that he has always been interested in science. As long as he can remember, he has loved nature and enjoyed being in it. Mr. Spiegl was influenced by his high school biology teacher, Mark Hughes, who kindled his desire for learning about science. His mom, also being a teacher, helped him attain more knowledge about the sciences.

As for the Envirothon, Mr. Spiegl says, "This year could be the year." In the last few years, his team has placed second, third, and sixth in the state tournaments. These disappointing finishes have led the Envirothon team to work even harder. With returning seniors, Mr. Spiegl really thinks that they might win state this year. Let us all congratulate Mr. Spiegl on this award and wish him luck in the upcoming Envirothon year.



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Croatia and the USA: A Cultural Comparison

Tyler Gains a Greater Perspective

By Tyler Wright
Staff Writer

This past summer, my family and I, including my mother, my father, my younger brother Andrew, and my older brother Jesse, traveled all over Europe. Starting in London, we continued onward to France, Italy, and finally ended in Croatia. There we met Bruno, an exchange student whom we had hosted earlier that year, and his family. This article is based on the observations I made this summer while on this trip and in no way reflects anyone else's opinion except mine. I just want to relate what I experienced and observed.

Bruno stayed with our family for a mere three weeks, seeing the finest of the Southeast from Mammoth Cave to the Country Music Hall of Fame. Bruno's favorite Tennessee landmark, however, was none other than the Jack Daniels Distillery. After talking and having an informal interview session with Bruno, I began to learn some of the similarities and differences of our two countries. However, it was not until I actually traveled to Croatia and lived with Bruno and his family, that I could place into context what he was saying.

Bruno told me on numerous occasions that the one thing in the United States that stuck out to him the most is that "everything is so powerful, big, and fast". It was not until I was actually in Europe that I realized the truthfulness to those words. The towns, for instance, are much smaller both in population and in square miles. For example, the whole population of Croatia, a country, is just about the same as the city of Nashville's. Also, instead of the "big and fast cars" we have in the States, walking and biking will take you easily from place to place in Croatia, and in the cities the metros make every location easily accessible.

Culturally, Croatia and the States share many common aspects. Bruno's family reminded me of my own family, and while I was there I could not help but feel that I was at home. Socially, the people were welcoming and pleasant to be around, resulting in a strong sense of hospitality. The parents are very heart-warming people, who gave Jesse and me a surprising amount of freedom to go out

and experience the Croatian culture. This freedom stems from the parents' expectations of our being responsible and using good judgment.

Because drinking is very much a part of most European cultures, it seems to be handled much more maturely by the teenagers there than the teenagers handle

States. Most of Bruno's family lived within a few blocks, or a 10-minute walk, of Bruno's home, resulting in a much more family-oriented atmosphere. The family lifestyle seemed to be more (for lack of a better word) patriarchal, or like living fifty years ago in the United States, where the husband is expected to

work everyday, and the wife stays at home and cooks and cleans. Of course, these are not definitive standards, and it could have been just this family being hospitable. But it still struck me as peculiar, because I am so used to doing the dishes and being yelled at for not cleaning up after myself; however, with Bruno's mother, Jesse and I had to fight with her to let us do the dishes.

The experience of hosting an exchange student, and then being taken in by his own family in his country, has revealed to me a lot about the

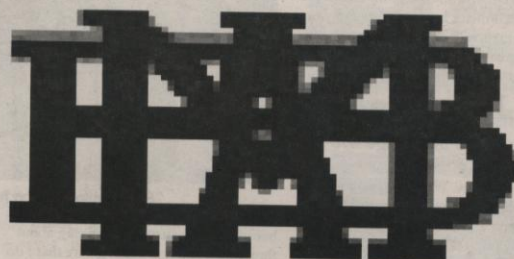
similarities and differences of the two countries. From the general geography to the social scene, our two cultures share more similarities than expected but still maintain a level of differences that define and identify each country.



Tyler and Bruno assume the position it in the States. My brother Jesse told me one night that he believes that 16- or 18-year-olds in Croatia act more like our 20- or 25-year-olds in the States.

Family in Croatia is much more centralized and traditional than it is in the

To the Lindsley Ruth Award and Its Recipients...



ROLL RED!!!

Chunbum Explores the Wikipedia Revolution

By Chunbum Park
Staff Writer

Part One of a Two Part Series

Wikipedia, the free online encyclopedia that can be edited by anyone, has currently lost the interest in the MBA community. The questionable credibility of Wikipedia articles and the MBA culture contribute to the dormant relationship between the two entities. The status quo undermines this year's drive for global perspective within the school.¹

The main cause for the neglect of Wikipedia has been its reliability. Many MBA teachers, such as Commander Carr, disallow students to use Wikipedia in their research projects. The debate team rejects the use of Wikipedia articles as a source of reference. The general consensus hovers around the dubious qualification of the encyclopedia's editors, lack of reliable reference, and susceptibility to vandalism.² In addition, the "Criticism of Wikipedia" article in Wikipedia lists systemic bias, abuse of power, copy right issues, exposure to political and corporate operatives, and threat to traditional publishing as possible problems within the system.³

MBA students boast nearly zero percent participation in the online encyclopedia.⁴ The possible reasons include busy lifestyle, lack of interest in global events, and the frustration with the complicated editing interface (wiki).

WikiProject, countering systemic bias, describes a "Wikipedian":⁵

"The average Wikipedian on English Wikipedia⁶ is male,⁷ is technically-inclined,⁸ is formally educated,⁹ speaks English to an extent¹⁰ is White,¹¹ is aged 15-49,¹² is from a predominantly Christian country¹³ is from an industrialized nation,¹⁴ is from the Northern Hemisphere, and is more likely to be employed in intellectual pursuits than in practical skills or physical labor."¹⁵

MBA students meet all of the criteria of a typical Wikipedian except "technically-inclined", which probably is the most significant factor in determining the students' rate of participation in the internet community. A few students within

the school lack access to the computer and/or internet at home. Not only is participation in sports the policy of the school, but MBA students also enjoy

sports as hobby and social activity; therefore, not only are the students unable to allocate time for Wikipedia, but also their preoccupation in school and community events avert the students from seeking interests outside the hill.

The highlight of MBA participation in Wikipedia is the "Montgomery Bell Academy" article¹⁶. The article was initially begun by an anonymous user from the school's internet IP address of 64.2.184.130 on September 19, 2006, with one sentence:¹⁷

"Montgomery Bell Academy is an elite all-boys' school based in Nashville [Nashville]. Bill Frist [Bill Frist], Senate Majority Leader, went there."

The article's arrogant, POV (point of view) tone in its initial form led to a nearly successful deletion process¹⁸. Quote one Wikipedian, Dbpsmith:

"One which is no doubt important to the 'more than 10,000 young men [it has sent] into the world since 1867, prepared by an exceptional, balanced education.' I believe I'm going to remove the word 'elite' from the silly article, however."

After several cleanup efforts, the article became more NPOV (neutral point of view), which is the official policy of Wikipedia. The article is still disorganized, with the "History" section covering a wide variety of topics including popular culture and policies. MBA's anonymous edits spill into a wide variety of articles such as "Harpeth Hall School", "Kearsney College" in South Africa, "High-speed rail", and "File sharing"¹⁹.

**Please contact
The Bell Ringer
to view footnotes
for this article.**

Junior Jargon

By Ian Snyder
Staff Writer

The junior class has been quite busy since Thanksgiving. With prom steadily approaching, the junior class is hard at work trying to raise as much money as possible to ensure an awesome prom.

The poinsettia sale went off without a hitch thanks to help from numerous junior volunteers. Each year the poinsettia sales increase over the previous year. This year we sold over 1,300 plants. These juniors delivered hundreds of poinsettias during the first weekend in December, and we hope to have netted a profit of close to \$9,000 to help on prom expenses.

Another big fundraiser, the concessions stand, is in full swing due to the wrestling and basketball seasons being well underway. The concessions stand is doing quite well due to junior leadership on the part of Frank Adelman and other junior volunteers. Make sure to visit the concession stand at the next MBA sporting event and help support the junior class!

The latest MBA theatre success, *The Misanthrope*, was enhanced by the superb acting of junior Garrett Anglin who stole the show with his non-stop hilarity.

Also, many juniors have been contributing to MBA winter sports.

Juniors such as William Davis, Carlton Baker, Preston Bailey, and Alfonza Knight are playing a big role in varsity basketball. They have helped the team come up with some big wins in its first string of games. The swimming season is also officially underway and juniors Curtis Lovelace and Tyler Ramsden are helping the team tremendously. Curtis is currently ranked number one in the nation for his age in the two-hundred meter breaststroke; can you say "Domination"? The junior class is having a great year so far and is looking forward to continuing its success.

Bowling

Continued from page five

are about to throw. When I go up to throw my ball, all I think about is music. I think about a song and constantly play that song in my mind (I have found that *Possession* by Evans Blue or *Breakdown* by Breaking Benjamin are songs that really help me concentrate on music and not bowling). In fact the last thing that I want to think about when I am about to bowl is bowling. I have found that no matter how good or bad the shots I am throwing are, I do much worse when I do think about bowling.

K: You've suffered some shoulder problems. Since we know that bowling

requires some serious athletic ability, how has your injury affected your average?

R: I have been dealing with shoulder problems for about two years now, so I have pretty much gotten used to hurting all the time. I would say that my shoulder

may be short-lived because I have recently found out that along with muscular and shoulder structural damage, that I have damaged the growth plate in my shoulder.

K: When did you begin bowling?

R: I want to say that I began bowling in sixth grade, but I am not sure that is correct. I would say that I have been bowling for 5 years but again that may not be correct.

The MBA bowling team ended its season 16-4 and is going to

the state tournament, which will be held in January after exams at Smyrna Lanes.

Before you completely remove from your mind the idea of trying out for the bowling team, consider the following: you will have an excuse to acquire your own custom-drilled ball; you can wear bowling shoes that only your feet have touched; and the team shirts are so retro-looking, they're really quite cool.



Ray rambles, and Ray bowls

problems have seriously hurt my average because I am constantly thinking about throwing a ball and making sure that I do not hurt my shoulder even worse. I constantly worry about my shoulder when I am bowling which, in turn, means that I am not thinking about music, but am, in fact, thinking about bowling. I have just recently gotten to where I can bowl and not worry about my shoulder, and since then I have established a 223 average in a league out at Hermitage. But, alas, this break of not thinking about my shoulder



James Bond, Mel Gibson Awe Reviewers

007: New Look, New Moves

By Kevin Thomas
Entertainment Editor

Casino Royale—3.7 out of 4.0 stars
(Rated PG-13 for intense sequences of violent action, a scene of torture, sexual content, and nudity)

Starring Daniel Craig (*Layer Cake*, *Munich*), Eva Green (*The Dreamers*, *Kingdom of Heaven*), Mads Mikkelsen (*Pusher II*), and Judi Dench (*Mrs. Henderson Presents*, *Ladies in Lavender*), Martin Campbell's new Bond thriller is both brilliant and enthralling. Although Craig does not embody the stereotypical James Bond in his appearance, he delivers a performance that is as good as, if not better than, that of Sean Connery in the '60s. Like his character in *Layer Cake*, his new Bond is much more intense than his predecessors in that he begins as a stone-cold killer and works his way to becoming a more affectionate person in the end.

The film follows Bond on his very first assignment and wants to be viewed as a prequel. Like *Batman Begins*, which is about Batman in his very earliest days, *Casino Royale* returns to Ian

Apocalypto Shocks and Impresses

By Alec McGuffey
Editor-in-Chief

Mel Gibson's third major directorial effort, *Apocalypto*, is similar in many ways to another of his movies, 2004's *The Passion of the Christ*. Both were filmed in ancient languages (*Apocalypto* in Mayan, and *Passion* in Aramaic and Latin), and both are remarkably violent.

These aspects of Gibson's most recent film, which one would expect to be unpopular among audiences raised on 100% American shoot-em-up flicks with stylized action sequences, are actually *Apocalypto*'s greatest strength. The Mayan dialogue succeeds in drawing the audience into the film, making the plight of the characters much more believable than if they had been speaking with a Boston or New York patois. Similarly, the gut-wrenching violence of the film serves two purposes: it paints an accurate picture of the sacrifice-driven culture of the Mayans and also shows what Jaguar Paw, the film's hero, is willing to endure to save his family.

The story is simple enough: Jaguar Paw (Rudy Youngblood) is a

member of a peaceful village community. The first thirty minutes of the film follows Jaguar Paw as he goes about his daily routines, from hunting to caring for his pregnant wife and young son. At the 30-minute mark, his village is attacked by a group of savage hunters from the Mayan capital, searching for men to bring back to their city as sacrifices.

Youngblood and his friends are tied together and led on an arduous journey to the capital. Gibson's attention to detail truly stands out once they reach the Mayan city, which is, without a doubt, one of the most impressive set pieces I have ever seen in a movie. The extras easily number in the thousands and represent all walks of Mayan life, ranging from slaves to arrogant teen royalty. If nothing else, *Apocalypto* deserves an Oscar for the makeup and costume work.

I won't ruin the story for you, but let's just say that Jaguar Paw escapes his captors, and the final hour of the film



is a frantic race through the jungle (Jaguar Paw has to save his wife and son from the well where he hid them when the village was attacked). The entire sequence is beautifully orchestrated and shot.

The final moments of the film are fulfilling and surprising and make sense when considered in the context of the film's time period. All in all, *Apocalypto* runs nearly two and a half hours, but it feels more like one hour. There is not one dull moment in the entire film, thanks to Gibson's eye for comedy, action, and creating both sympathetic heroes and easy-to-hate villains. Even if you don't agree with Mel's recent public antics, it would be a mistake to miss this film.

3.9 out of 4 (because of one horrendous subtitle)



Fleming's first Bond novel to learn about James Bond in his early days of being an action hero. In the movie, the British government gives Bond a mission to defeat Le Chiffre (Mikkelsen), who is the villain, in a high-stakes poker game in an effort to stop the spread of terrorism. In my opinion and contrary to popular thought, the game sequence is excellent because it reminds me of the poker played in *The Sting*, which is a fantastic film.

Casino Royale has a nice blend of action sequences and dialogue. The movie opens with a very long chase scene in Madagascar that quickly draws the viewer into the film. From the very beginning, I knew that it would be an excellent movie. In some previous Bond thrillers, there are too many action scenes

and not enough dialogue, and it got to be lame after a while. Here, however, there is the perfect contrast of violent action and characters talking to one another.

The end of the film revealed some of its flaws. I thought that it was going to end a few times, but it never did. It dragged on for about twenty needless minutes after the card game. I do not think that the movie needed any of the romance between Vesper Lynd (Green) and Bond. Instead, I think that it should have ended shortly after the poker sequence. But do not let that item discourage you from seeing this James Bond masterpiece! *Casino Royale* is a must-see for James Bond fans.

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